



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT Dorothea Lange



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE MAR 27 1953	1/23, 2911, 13, 10, 19, 24-27; 3/2, 4, 10, 11, 18/53	REPORT MADE BY [redacted] dl
TITLE [redacted]		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R INTERNAL SECURITY ACT, 1950	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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K-1-1

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G.I.R.-9

Acquaintance met the [redacted] in 1936 but did not know them as CP members.
 Another acquaintance knew the [redacted] as CP members in middle 1930's, due to association and activities, but did not know specific CP unit to which they belonged. Other acquaintances interviewed; not aware of CP sympathy on the part of the [redacted]

-P-

DETAILS:

Unless otherwise noted, all informants mentioned herein are of known reliability.

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ON 10/8/93 4343,317SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

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6 - Bureau (65-2427) (Registered) 1 - INS, San Francisco (Registered) 2 - Los Angeles (65-4879) (Registered) 2 - St. Louis (65-1657) (Registered) 2 - New York (100-376) (Registered) 2 - Memphis (Encls.) (Registered) 2 - Washington Field (65-5222) (Registered) 3 - San Francisco (65-2427)		

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SF 65-2427
SF 65-4387

CALIF.

[redacted] San Francisco, advised
that she met [redacted] early in 1936 when they were residing

[redacted] She stated that her line of interest in
photography was in portraiture, while theirs was more in social or
documentary photography.

[redacted] advised that she was not particularly interested
in politics or social causes and could furnish little information as to
the [redacted] attitude along these lines. [redacted] recalled the follow-
ing persons as among those known by her to be acquaintances of the [redacted]

N.Y. CALIF.

WILLIAM ABBENSETH, 73 Telegraph Place, photographer,
employed on a WPA project at one time, photographed
San Francisco houses and recently lived in New York
for several years.

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[redacted] who lived near the [redacted]
in the middle 1930's.

DOROTHEA LANGE-TAYLOR, Documentary Photographer.

[redacted] Photographer.

RE: WILLIAM H. ABBENSETH, JR. (A) 12
[redacted]

A report of the San Francisco Retailers' Credit Association dated
December 11, 1939, concerning ABBENSETH, then age forty-fifty, reflects
that he was then assistant supervisor, Art Project Department, WPA, 42nd
and Judah, San Francisco, and had been employed there four years.

CALIF.

His wife's name was given as MARGARET and it was noted that a
marriage license had been issued August 3, 1931 to WILLIAM HENRY ABBENSETH,
JR. and MARGARET MOORE, place and date of marriage not shown. He was
divorced from his first wife, ELLEN ABBENSETH. Instant report reflected
their current address as 1865 Vallejo Street, San Francisco, with previous
addresses at 305A Filbert Street; 1218 Montgomery Street; and 1355 Taylor
Street, all San Francisco, as well as 14 Ionlo Park, Berkeley, California.
It was stated that ABBENSETH and wife were living with his mother at the
current address.

SF 65-2127
SF 65-1387

[redacted] married [redacted] She
was born [redacted] according to Immigration and
Naturalization Service records. C/11/11

San Francisco [redacted] advised in December, 1943, that [redacted]
and his wife, known as [redacted] were members of the North Beach Club
of the Communist Party in San Francisco. A/25
U/11/11

The Communist Party has been cited by the Attorney General as a
subversive organization which seeks to alter the form of Government of the
United States by un-Constitutional means.

A report of the San Francisco Retailers' Credit Association dated
July 13, 1949, reflects that [redacted]

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RE: MRS. DOROTHEA LANGE TAYLOR

Mrs. TAYLOR was born May 26, 1895 at Hoboken, New Jersey, and
is presently the wife of Professor PAUL SCHUSTER TAYLOR, Chairman of the
Department of Economics, University of California (U.C.) at Berkeley. A/11/51

The U.C. Index of Publications written by faculty members,
reflects that Professor TAYLOR has published material dealing with
seamen's labor mittens on the Pacific Coast, the problems of farm laborers,
and of Mexican migratory farm laborers.

[redacted] Berkeley, has advised
that he believed that Mrs. TAYLOR illustrated some of the publications
of Professor TAYLOR and expressed the personal opinion that these were
"propaganda photographs in that by adroit use of lighting, composition,
and subject matter, Mrs. TAYLOR had conveyed a very dismal and depressing
view of exploitation of migratory laborers by large and wealthy agricultural
interests."

The records of the Alameda County Retailers' Credit Association
reflect that DOROTHEA LANGE was a Government photographer in 1939.

When interviewed by the FBI in February, 1942, [redacted]
mentioned Professor and Mrs. TAYLOR as among their few acquaintances.

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(A.L.F.)

this publication due to certain disagreements over its contents. SF [redacted] stated that HARRY LUNDBERG of the Sailors Union of the Pacific (SUP), did not feel that the SUP was getting enough coverage.

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[redacted] advised that he had been acquainted with [redacted] (mentioned above) and his wife and [redacted] and believed them to be Party members in the same manner in which he believed the [redacted] to be Party members. He stated that he did not know whether the [redacted] were acquainted with [redacted]. He pointed out that [redacted] had been the [redacted] so that it would appear logical that he would be acquainted with photographers interested in Communist activities.

[redacted] remembered meeting [redacted] who resided on [redacted] San Francisco at one time, and [redacted] a photographer, at a dance sponsored by the American Russian Institute and held in a hall located in the 1800 block of California Street between Polk and Van Ness, sometime in the middle 1930's. He stated that he did not know whether they were acquainted with the [redacted]

[redacted] recalled [redacted] as a German who "ran with the intellectual crowd," but stated that he did not know [redacted] employment at that time or whether [redacted] was acquainted with the [redacted]

[redacted] described [redacted] as one of the early artists in the Communist movement but again he stated he did not specifically know whether [redacted] was acquainted with the [redacted]

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[redacted] stated that he did not recall persons named [redacted] or [redacted] as acquaintances of the [redacted] or as interested in Communist Party affairs. He stated that he knew DOROTHEA LANGE (TAYLOR), but did not know the extent of her acquaintance with the [redacted] if any. The name of [redacted] was not familiar to him.

[redacted] advised that he had no knowledge of the [redacted] employment in the middle 1930's or their places of residence.

[redacted] C.P. (A.L.F.)

[redacted] has been reported as an acquaintance of the [redacted] since the 1930's, according to [redacted]

MR. & MRS. [redacted]

(A.L.F.)

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advised that he became acquainted with

[redacted] recalled visiting [redacted]
residence on two occasions. The date of the first occasion was not recalled,
except that it was prior to the second visit [redacted]
and was in the summertime. Apparently, therefore, the first visit was in
the summer of either 1943, 1944, or 1945. The only persons present on this
occasion were [redacted]

The second visit was recalled when a dinner was held at [redacted] residence.

the following persons as being present

Professor TAYLOR and wife (believed named DOT, formerly a
photographer who was possibly once associated
with "Life" Magazine, who had had an operation
shortly before this affair.) (See DOROTHEA LANGE
TAYLOR above);

'The TAYLORS' teen-age son (name not recalled):

A young woman (name not recalled) from "Life" Magazine in San Francisco.

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[redacted] advised that it was her belief that [redacted] were interested in news photography as distinguished from documentary photography.

[redacted] stated that their conversations with the [redacted] had been primarily concerning photography and [redacted] rather than on matters which would reveal the [redacted] attitude toward Communism or the Soviet Union. [redacted] stated that she had no reason to believe that the [redacted] were sympathetic toward Communism or the U.S.S.R.

[redacted] advised that when she first became acquainted with the [redacted] they were living separately, with [redacted] elsewhere in town, though she did not know where.

[redacted] advised that she did not know how [redacted] happened to become attached to "Life" Magazine, though possibly through [redacted] (see above), one of the original "Life" photographers.

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[redacted] mentioned the following as to the known acquaintances of the [redacted]

[redacted] of the "Time-Life", San Francisco Office,

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13/5*
[redacted] an acquaintance in the 1930's, a free lance photographer, later employed by "Life" Magazine.

DOROTHEA LANCE TAYLOR, mentioned above.

[redacted], employed by "Life" in San Francisco.
13/5

RE: [redacted]
In July, 1949, SF [redacted] reported that [redacted] who then was believed to be overseas,

RE: [redacted] *(CALIF.)*

This person is possibly identical with [redacted] a known acquaintance of the [redacted] who has been interviewed and has advised that she knew of no Communist sympathy or activity on the part of the [redacted]